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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Junichi Ujii

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SCHULTE ROTH & ZABEL LLP  
919 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

EXAMINER

LU, ZHIYU

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/603,244	<b>Applicant(s)</b> UJII, JUNICHI	
	<b>Examiner</b> ZHIYU LU	<b>Art Unit</b> 2618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments, see REMAKRS, filed 04/29/2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 9 and 15 under 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Ozaki and Wolcott et al..

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki (JP10-031265) in view of Wolcott et al. (US Patent#7158945).

Regarding claim 1, Ozaki teaches an announcement method for a portable terminal (image-capturing device) comprising an image-capture section, the method comprising outputting a predetermined announcement sound when trying to take a picture (abstract, paragraph 0004).

But, Ozaki does not expressly disclose changing to a camera mode.

Wolcott et al. teach a camera having different modes, wherein audible sounds are made when the user changes modes (column 11 lines 60-62, obviously as audible announcement).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate making audible announcement when changing modes taught by Wolcott et al. into the announcement method of Ozaki for mode change announcement purpose.

Regarding claim 9, Ozaki teaches a portable terminal comprising:

- an image-capturing section (3 of Fig. 1);
- a sounding body (6 of Fig. 1); and
- a control section which outputs a predetermined announcement sound from the sounding body when it has been detected that imaging-capturing section being used (paragraphs 0005-0009).

But, Ozaki does not expressly disclose the portable terminal comprising a selecting section, which selects a camera mode for using the image-capturing section and announcing when detecting the selecting section has selected the camera mode.

Wolcott et al. teach a camera having different modes, wherein audible sounds are made when the user changes modes (column 11 lines 60-62, obviously as audible announcement).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate making audible announcement when changing modes taught by Wolcott et al. into the announcement method of Ozaki for mode change announcement purpose.

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Regarding claims 4 and 12, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. teach the limitations of claims 1 and 9.

Ozaki teaches wherein, in the camera mode, the output of the announcement sound is stopped while recording an image captured by the image-capturing section (paragraphs 0005-0009, wherein no announcement is made during image capturing), which is obviously interpreted as prohibiting output sound while recording an image.

Regarding claims 6 and 14, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. teach the limitations of claims 1 and 9.

Ozaki teaches the control section restricts the output level of the predetermined announcement sound to a fixed output level, where obviously the output level of speaker in the portable terminal is predetermined.

3. Claims 3, 7-8, 11 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki (JP10-031265) in view of Wolcott et al. (US Patent#7158945) and Homma et al. (US Patent#6950126).

Regarding claim 15, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. teach a portable terminal as explained in response to claim 9 above.

But, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. do not expressly disclose outputting a predetermined announcement sound when an image-capturing button has been half-pressed.

Homma et al. teach a portable terminal having the capability of detecting state of half-pressed button in camera mode (column 7 lines 49-60). It would have been obvious to

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one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that embed announcement of Ozaki can be outputted in detecting half-pressed signal instead of full-pressed signal by designer's preference, especially for the objective of making public warning prior to a camera shot. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate detecting half-pressed button in camera mode taught by Homma et al. into the announcement method of Ozaki and Wolcott et al., in order to trigger public warning prior to a camera shot.

Regarding claims 3 and 11, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. teach the limitations of claims 1 and 9.

But, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. teach the announcement sound is outputted from one of a speaker for announcing incoming-calls or an ear speaker.

Homma et al. teach a portable camera phone (abstract, Fig. 1), wherein obviously the announcement sound is outputted from one of a speaker for announcing incoming-calls since the speaker of the portable terminal is the only available sound-outputting device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate using phone speaker to make announcement for a camera phone taught by Homma et al. into the announcement method of Ozaki and Wolcott et al., in order to output announcement.

Regarding claim 7, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. teach an announcement method for an image-capturing device as explained in response to claim 15 above.

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Regarding claims 8 and 16, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. teach the limitations of claims 7 and 15.

Wolcott et al. teach making audible sound when a new picture is taken (column 11 lines 60-61), but Ozaki and Wolcott et al. do not expressly disclose further comprising the step of outputting another predetermined announcement sound when the image-capturing button is fully-pressed.

Homma et al. teach detecting whether a button being fully-pressed (column 7 lines 49-60), which would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the announcement of Ozaki into triggered at detection of button being fully-pressed by design preference in warning bystanders of camera shooting.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the announcement method of Ozaki and Wolcott et al. with using triggering detection of button being fully-pressed taught by Homma et al. as triggering public announcement by design preference.

4. Claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki (JP10-031265) in view of Wolcott et al. (US Patent#7158945) and Ogino (JP11-168646).

Regarding claim 2 and 10, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. teach the limitations of claims 1 and 9.

But, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. do not expressly disclose comprising a timing section which measure time, wherein the timing section outputs a signal each time a fixed period

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of time elapses after it was detected that the selection section has selected the camera mode, and wherein the control section causes the sounding body to output the predetermined announcement sound whenever the signal is output from the timing section.

Ogino teaches a photographic device having a timing device and carrying out periodic voice generation (paragraph 0026) in voicing out camera operation, which would have been obvious to be noticed by people around.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate periodic voice generation in photographic device taught by Ogino into the modified method and device of Ozaki and Wolcott et al., in order to attract attentions of others to notice the operation of the camera in image-capture.

5. Claims 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki (JP10-031265) in view of Wolcott et al. (US Patent#7158945) and Chen (US Patent#5530432).

Regarding claims 5 and 13, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. teach the limitations of claims 1 and 9.

But, Ozaki and Wolcott et al. do not expressly disclose the announcement sound is output only in a case where the luminance around the portable terminal is less than a predetermined brightness.

Chen teaches an alarm device output sound in a case where the luminance around it is less than a predetermined brightness (column 1 lines 6-11), which would have been



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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize its utility in warning photographer low light environment as the same in warning hidden camera usage environment, hidden in the dark.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize and utilize the invention of Chen into the method and portable terminal of Ozaki and Wolcott et al. for alerting people around to achieve the purpose of preventing camera from hidden operation.

### ***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ZHIYU LU whose telephone number is (571)272-2837. The examiner can normally be reached on Weekdays: 9AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung can be reached on (571) 272-7882. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Z. L./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2618

/Nay A. Maung/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit  
2618

Zhiyu Lu  
July 2, 2008